GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:390
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
SUPPLY OF ETHANOL MIXED PETROL AT PURE PETROL PRICE
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the widespread complaint in the country that the Oil Marketing Companies are supplying pure petrol mixed with ethanol and the petrol pumps are supplying this mixed petrol at pure petrol price; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b): According to IS: 2796:2000 amendment, 5% anhydrous denatured ethanol (conforming to IS: 15464: 2004) can be used for blending with motor gasoline. Motor Spirit (MS) blended with 5% ethanol meets BIS specification for MS in totality. Accordingly, ethanol blended petrol with 5% ethanol is being dispensed from the retail outlets of OMCs in the notified States and Union Territories. As BIS specifications are met, the product is sold as petrol and the companies are not making any differentiation on the basis of blending ethanol. Further, depending on ethanol availability in a supply location, blending is done.
The calorific value of ethanol is less than that of MS by almost 40%. The typical calorific value of ethanol is 26750 KJ/KG as against the typical calorific value of MS which is 43500 KJ/KG. In the blended MS, the reduction in calorific value of the blended fuel will be less than 2%, as compared to the MS without ethanol which is insignificant. However, the octane number of ethanol is 100 as against more than or equal to 88 of MS. As ethanol has a higher octane number, it helps in increasing the octane number of the blended fuel which facilitates better combustion and thus helps in net reduction of tail pipe emissions.
In view of the above, marketing ethanol blended petrol at the price of unblended petrol is fully justified.